

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00675 111055Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

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O 111039Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1207

CTG ONE ZERO ZERO POINT ONE IMMEDIATE

COMCRUDESGRU TWELVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 6 7 5

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, MPOL, UR, US

SUBJ: MOORING AREA FOR US NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO LENINGRAD

REFS: LENINGRAD 663 NOTAL AND MOSCOW 6465

1. CONGEN OFFICER AND DATT MOSCOW, ADMIRAL MAYO, MET WITH ADMIRAL LEONENKOV AND HIS STAFF OFFICERS AT ADMIRALTY HEADQUARTERS IN LENINGRAD LATE MORNING MAY 11. CAPTAIN ARTAMONOV, ACTION OFFICER ON LEONENKOV'S STAFF, HAD EARLIER CALLED CONGEN TO ADVISE THAT INFAMOUS EAST WIND STILL BLOWING AND GAVAN (MORPORT) WATER DEPTH THEREFORE QUESTIONABLE.

2. CONGEN OFFICER AND ADMIRAL MAYO STRESSED THAT GAVAN MEETS OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF SHIPS' VISIBILITY DURING VISIT. LEONENKOV VERY AGREEABLE TO THIS, EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING, ETC, AND VOICED HOPE THAT "LAST READING" OF WEATHER CONDITIONS, TO BE CONDUCTED 0030 MAY 12, WOULD BE FAVORABLE AND PERMIT GAVAN MORRING. CONGEN NOW SENDING IMMEDIATE MESSAGE TO ADMIRAL LANGILLE ASKING THAT HE ADVISE US SOONEST OF VESSELS' PRESENT DRAFT. LEONENKOV SAID SOVIETS CAN GUARANTEE ACCESS TO GAVAN MOORING SITE FOR MAXIMUM OF 24 FEET SIX INCHES DRAFT AT PRESENT MOMENT, BUT GREATER DRAFT WOULD MEAN MAKING LAST MUNUTE, IE 0030 MAY 12, DETERMINATION AS
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PAGE 02 LENING 00675 111055Z

TO CONDITIONS.

3. REQUEST THAT EMBASSY URGENTLY NOTIFY SOVIET MAIN NAVY STAFF AND MFA THAT WE EXPECT SOVIETS TO DELIVER GAVAN MORRING SITE IN ABSENCE OF ACTUAL STORM CONDITIONS, NOTING, AS WE DID THIS MORNING, THAT COMMERCIAL PORT AREA UNACCEPTABLE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS OF VISIBILITY. WHILE WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY TAKING CONSPIRATORIAL VIEW, FACT THAT EAST WIND SYNDROME HAS BEEN PLAYED UP INCREASINGLY IS SUSPICIOUS AND LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO APPLY MAXIMUM POLITICAL LEVERAGE TO TILT FINAL MOORING SITE DECISION IN OUR FAVOR. IF SOVIET AUTHORITIES MOSCOW CAN SEND A ROCKET OR TWO TODAY TO LENINGRAD COMMAND, WE BELIEVE DECISION MORE LIKELY TO BE FAVORABLE. FYI LEONENKOV SAID THAT NEVA RIVER MOORING AS ALTERNATIVE WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR SAFETY AND OTHER REASONS. NEUBERT

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